

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

New dependent Claims 7-20 are supported in the specification on the following page
and line numbers:

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No new matter is believed added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-20 are active.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claimed invention provides an injection molded object comprising:
a lactic acid based resin; and
a metal hydroxide in a ratio of 5 to 40 mass parts per 100 mass parts of the lactic acid based resin,

wherein the metal hydroxide is surface-treated, and Na_2O (w- Na_2O) present on a surface of grains of the metal hydroxide is 0.1 mass % or less, but more than 0% based on the total mass of the metal hydroxide.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have submitted, along with this paper, a Declaration by Mr. Kazuya Tanaka, an inventor of record in this application, and accompanying Exhibits that demonstrate enablement for the claim feature at issue. Mr. Tanaka's Declaration, supported by the Exhibits, describes and evidences that aluminum hydroxide starting materials, made *via* the Bayer process operating on bauxite, were known and commercially available before the present application's earliest priority date. Next, the Declaration describes, as evidenced by the HIGHLIGHT Catalog Exhibit, that surface treatment of the known aluminum hydroxide starting materials produces aluminum hydroxide products with w- Na_2O contents falling within the claimed range, and that these products were commercially available before the present application's earliest priority date. The Declaration then links (creates a nexus) between the HIGHLIGHT Catalog and the processes and starting materials described in the present specification. Finally, the Declaration independently argues enablement based on an actual specification Example. Applicants therefore submit that the claim feature at issue is enabled by the present specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The rejections of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over Tanaka et al. (WO 2004/022650) and under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) over Nozaki et al. (U.S. 2004/0034121) in view of Ahara (JP 09-208740) are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit herewith an accurate English translation of JP 2003-098736, the priority document for this application. Applicants submit that this filing perfects priority to the original Japanese filing date of April 2, 2003. The earliest publication dates of Tanaka and Nozaki are March 18, 2004 and February 18, 2004, respectively. Applicants submit that as both earliest publication dates are antedated by the perfected priority date, neither Tanaka nor Nozaki can be cited as references in this application.

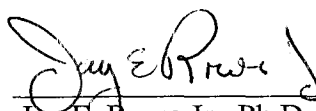
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over Tanaka be withdrawn.

Ahara describes surface treated aluminum hydroxide as a flame retardant agent. However, this reference neither discloses nor suggests a polylactic acid composition. Accordingly, as Nozaki is not available as a reference and Ahara does not disclose or suggest all the claimed elements Applicants submit that the rejection under 103(a) over the cited references cannot be supported. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) over Nozaki in view of Ahara be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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